

DISTRICT OFFICES:

4434 AMBOY ROAD, 2ND FLOOR
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10312
(718) 356-8400

(718) 356-1928 (FAX)

9818 FOURTH AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11209
(718) 630-5277
(718) 630-5388 (FAX)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Vito Fossella

13th District, New York

CAPITOL OFFICE:

1239 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3213
(202) 225-3371
(202) 226-1272 (FAX)

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

vito.fossella@mail.house.gov

209676

December 18, 2003



Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
United States Department of Transportation
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Secretary Williams:

I am writing to express my support for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's petition regarding activation of the existing Staten Island rail line and the construction of the Chemical Coast Connector: Finance Docket No. FD 34428. This project holds great economic significance for both the Borough of Staten Island and the Port of New York and New Jersey.

The Staten Island Railroad was once a vital economic engine for the Borough, efficiently moving goods and cargo on and off the Island. Its discontinuation has led to increased traffic in an already congested area. This situation hampers the ability of the Island to attract new businesses and expand existing ones. Specifically, the Howland Hook Container Terminal requires direct rail access to succeed in today's highly competitive maritime shipping industry. In addition to being Staten Island's largest private employer, Howland Hook is the largest marine container terminal in the State of New York and a major military port of embarkation. The Port of New York and New Jersey lies in the heart of the world's largest consumer market, serving over 18 million people. With trade projections indicating a significant increase in seagoing cargo volume, efficient flow of cargo into and out of the port is an integral part of maintaining the economic vibrancy of both the port and our nation.

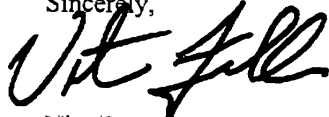
Reactivation of the Staten Island Railroad will allow the Port of New York and New Jersey to maintain efficiency and viability in the drastically expanding global market. In addition to delivering goods throughout our nation in the most efficient manner, the rail link will take large numbers of trucks off our roads; thus achieving the dual goals of reducing congestion and air pollution associated with emissions.

Honorable Vernon A. Williams

Page 2

Once again, I would like to reaffirm my steadfast support of Finance Docket No. FD 34428. I urge you to expeditiously issue a declaratory order so that the Staten Island rail link and our nation's economy can start steamrolling into the new millennium. Thank you for your consideration. Please consider this letter consistent with all relevant laws and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vito Fossella". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "V" and a cursive "Fossella".

Vito Fossella
Member of Congress



Facsimile



Congressman Vito J. Fossella
13th District of New York

1239 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone (202) 225-3371
Fax (202) 226-1272

To: The Honorable Vernon A. Williams Fax No: 202-565-9019

Of: _____

From: The Honorable Vito J. Fossella

Date: 12/18/03 Pages (Incl. Cover) 3

Notes: Support letter in favor of Port Authority of New York and New
Jersey petition: Finance Docket No. FD 34428. Please contact Brendan
Williams in my office with any questions.

